

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08600 301635Z

46

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-04 NSC-05 RSC-01

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P R 301535Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9852

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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JERUSALEM FOR PARSKY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, EGEN, EG, US

SUBJECT: JWG ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

REF: STATE 231750

1. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED PRELIMINARY GOE REACTION TO DRAFT AGENDA CONTAINED REFTEL. INITIAL DISCUSSIONS INDICATED EGYPTIANS MILDLY DUBIOUS ABOUT CONCEPT OF PLENARY SESSIONS ONLY, BELIEVING THAT SUB-COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ORGANIZED TO MAXIMIZE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS AND USE OF TIME. WE EXPLAINED US PREFERENCE FOR SINGLE SESSIONS AND HAVE NOW OBTAINED AGREEMENT THAT SUBJECT OF AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK WILL BE THE FIRST ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED IN OPENING MEETING.

2. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION ON GOE SIDE AS TO THRUST OF ITEMS SUCH AS "US BANK FACILITIES" AND "SELECTIVE US MEDIA PROGRAM", WHICH WE HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN, AND SOME RESISTANCE TO INCLUSION OF ITEMS CONCERNING EXTERNAL DEBT OR RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS. FORMER IS EVIDENTLY STILL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 08600 301635Z

A VERY SENSITIVE SUBJECT, AND LATTER IS NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE

FOR A GROUP AT THIS LEVEL. EGYPTIANS FEEL THAT REPORT SHOULD GO TO CO-CHAIRMAN OF JOINT COOPERATION COMMISSION AND THEN, IF NECESSARY, TO APPROPRIATE CABINET MEEMBERS.

3. ON SUBJECT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION, PRESENCE OF AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BUTZ AND QUENTIN WEST IN CAIRO NOV. 9-11 IS FELT BY EGYPTIAN MIN AG OFFICIALS TO OFFER MORE SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FULL RANGE SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO INCLUDING ITEM ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN JWG MEETING.

4. WE DETECT STRONG INTEREST IN CONTINUING THE DISCUSSION ON ALLOCATIONS OF US AID, INCLUDING PL-480, THAT WAS STARTED IN WASHINGTON. PRESENCE OF TEMPLETON ON DELEGATION HAS BEEN POINTED OUT, BUT INTEREST OF GOE IN THIS SUBJECT MAY REQUIRE GREATER ATTENTION FROM US SIDE THAN BRIEFING PROPOSED REFTEL.

5. RE SOCIAL EVENTS. GOE WILL HOST AN AFFAIR ON NOV 3 AT HILTON AND WE HAVE SCHEDULED PARSKY DINNER ON THE 4TH FOR APPROXIMATELY 50 PERSONS.

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